

6. Latitude and Longitude

Web Search Challenge!

Find an answer to this question: "Why is a map of the world known as an ATLAS?"

Finding places on an atlas

- Locating a place on an atlas is similar to using grid references on a map.
- Then, we measure how far north or south we are using lines of latitude
- First, we measure how far east or west we are using lines of longitude

The Geographic Grid: Latitude and longitude

A. Latitude

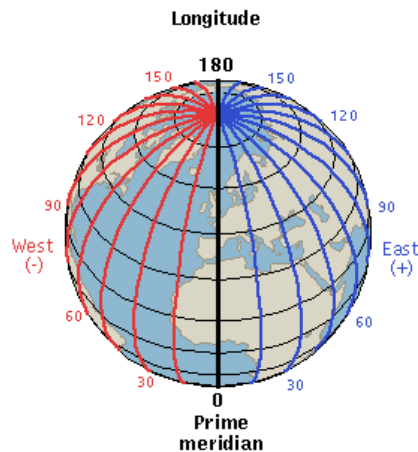
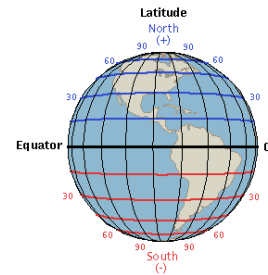
Imagine horizontal lines going all the way around the earth.

These are known as lines of latitude.

0° Latitude is known as "The Equator".

The rest are measured as being up to 90°N or 90°S of the Equator.

(90+90 = 180, the amount of degrees between the north and south poles).



B. Longitude

Imagine vertical lines drawn around the earth which start at the North Pole, go all the way around the bottom (the South Pole) and then back up to the top again.

These are known as lines of longitude.

0° Longitude is known as the "Prime Meridian".

The rest are measured as being up to 180°E or 180°W of the Prime Meridian (180+180 = 360, the amount of degrees in a full circle).

Because the sun travels around the earth once every 24 hours, this means that for every 15° traveled (ie 360° / 24 hrs), local time moves forward one hour.

So, atlases show 24 meridians 15° apart, starting with the Prime Meridian.

Did you know...

1. The Prime Meridian passes through Greenwich in London. If you visit the observatory there, you can place one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere (= half a sphere) of the earth, and one foot in the Western Hemisphere!
2. All places on the same meridian line will see the sun rise and fall at the same time. The word "meridian" means "middle of the day" and the abbreviations AM and PM (ante-meridian and post-meridian) come from this.

Task 1

Provide explanations of the following words:

Keyword	Definition
Latitude	
Longitude	
Prime Meridian	
The Equator	
Meridian	
AM	
PM	
Hemisphere	